

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 39 I was unavoidably detained at the White House meeting with the President on the Medicare Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

## AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 3130, CHILD SUPPORT PERFORMANCE AND INCENTIVE ACT OF 1998

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 3130, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3130, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Madam Speaker, I request this time in order to inquire of the leader as to the schedule for the coming week.

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAZIO of California. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have finished legislative business for the week.

The House will reconvene at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 9 for a pro forma session.

On Tuesday, March 10, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and at 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider two suspensions: H. Con. Res. 206, a resolution to permit the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony to remember the victims of the Holocaust; and possibly S. 419, the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1997. Any recorded votes on these suspensions will be postponed until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10.

On Wednesday and Thursday, March 11 and 12, the House will meet at 10 a.m. to consider the following legislation: H.R. 1432, the African Growth and Opportunity Act; H.R. 2883, the Government Performance and Results Act Technical Amendments of 1997; and H.R. 992, a bill to amend the Tucker Act.

Madam Speaker, we hope to conclude legislative business for the week by 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 12.

There will be no legislative business and no votes on Friday, March 13.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BOB" CHILDS

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to speak about one of our House's more dedicated employees. Today I would like to acknowledge the career of Bob Childs, who recently left us for retirement after 37 years' work on Capitol Hill.

Bob came to government service in 1960 in the electrical engineering department under the Architect of the Capitol to work on the inauguration of President Kennedy.

In 1961 he assisted in wiring the House for sound. Due in large measure to his efforts, our voices ring loud and clear through this Chamber to this very day.

Early in 1970 Bob worked on the Senate's very first sound system, and in 1973 became the supervisor for the sound systems of both Chambers.

In 1976 Bob participated in the design and installation of our present sound system here in the House, while maintaining supervisory responsibility for its overall operation and for the TV lighting in the Chamber for all joint sessions. It is worth noting that Bob's schedule often required him to arrive at 7 a.m. and to remain on duty until the session ended after special orders.

During his 37 years on the Hill, Bob accumulated a wealth of knowledge as to how this institution functioned in terms of both the legislative process and behind the scenes operations which support our legislative efforts here. His eagerness to share his knowledge, combined with the skill and integrity always present in carrying out his duties, leaves us at a loss on many levels. He can easily be classified as a resource, and we know all too well that a resource is rarely appreciated until it is no longer available. But in Bob's case, we want to let him know how much he have meant to us in this institution and to convey our thanks for a job well done for 37 years.

In closing, it is important to us that Bob realize how special his contributions have been and that wherever retirement takes him and Nancy, to Myrtle Beach, to Cape May, to the Maryland or Delaware coast, we hope that his path will from time to time lead back to us.

Madam Speaker, we say to Bob, "Good-bye, good luck and God Bless you."

Mr. FAZIO of California. Madam Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I would like to add the minority's accolades to Bob Childs and express our appreciation to the leader for highlighting his service to our institution.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—RETURNING TO THE SENATE THE BILL S. 104, NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1982

Mr. ENSIGN. Madam Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and I send to the desk a privileged resolution (H. Res. 379) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 379

*Resolved*, That the bill of the Senate (S. 104) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, in the opinion of this House, contravenes the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such bill be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

The CHAIRMAN. The resolution constitutes a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX.

The gentleman from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) will each be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN).

(Mr. ENSIGN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENSIGN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am joined by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) here today in support of this resolution.

This resolution is necessary to return to the Senate the bill S. 104, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997. S. 104 contravenes the constitutional requirement that revenue measures shall originate in the House of Representatives. It would repeal a revenue provision and replace it with a user fee.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 imposes a fee of one mill per kilowatt hour on electricity generated by nuclear energy. S. 104 would repeal this fee and replace it with a new fee that would be limited to the amounts appropriated for nuclear waste disposal.

The current one mill per kilowatt hour fee is unquestionably a revenue measure. Regardless of the stated intent of the fee, the amount of fee proceeds collected have greatly exceeded costs. The fee is being used to raise revenue to finance the Federal Government generally.

Therefore, the Senate bill, by repealing what is in effect a tax, constitutes a revenue bill. The provision would have a direct effect on Federal revenues. The proposed change is "revenue affecting" and therefore constitutes a revenue measure in the constitutional sense. Accordingly, I am asking that the House insist on its constitutional prerogatives.

Madam Speaker, I want to emphasize that this action speaks solely to the constitutional prerogative of the House and not to the merits of the Senate